SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : We have a Screening Committee in the Ministry consisting of various departments on medical grounds. The Screening Committee is deciding the *ad hoc* allotments. As far as middlemen are concerned, I have given the answer in the original reply in part (c). There are officers in my department at the disposal of the applicants. They can, at any time of a working day, meet the officers and get the position clarified.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : I want a time-limit within which you will dispose of a case.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : If the application is having the full details, we will dispose of it then and there.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : I can give the Minister a number of cases which qualify everything but...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has said that it is not possible to fix up a time-limit. Q. No. 167. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : Sir, I would like to clarify this. What happens exactly is that we keep on having the applications from disabled people and I have personally looked into some of the applications of people who are handicapped, who are blind, who have T.B., who have cancer. If the parents have cancer, even then I go out of the way and give them out of turn allotment. Some cases are very serious and they have to be given priority and they jump the queue. On flimsy grounds people apply for out of turn allotment and expect to get it, but they don't get it because some very serious cases have to be covered.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : I don't object to that. Madam, I want that the disposal of very application--either you accept it or reject it--should be done within a time-frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. It has been answered.

उर्वरकों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि

*167. श्री मूल चन्द मीणा :†

श्री पर्वतनेनि उपेन्द्र :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उर्वरकों पर राज-सहायता वापस ले लिये जाने के कारण उर्वरकों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उर्वरकों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि का किसानों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने किसानों को इस मूल्य-वृद्धि का सामना करने के लिए कोई सहायता प्रदान की है। यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) क्या कृषि उत्पादों के वसूली मूल्यों में भी वृद्धि की जायेगी; यदि हां, तो कब तक ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The prices of phosphatic and potassic fertilizer have gone up as a result of their decontrol on 25th August, 1992. The price of nitrogeneous fertilizer has, however, been reduced by 10% by increasing subsidy on them.

(b) and (c) Government has sought to cushion the effect of rise in prices by providing a concession of Rs. 1000 per tonne to the farmers on these fertilizers. Further a sum of Rs. 500 crores has also been sanctioned to State Governments, for schemes to assist small/marginal farmers.

(d) Minimum support prices for kharif season announced on 31st August, 1992 was substantially higher than in the previous years. Support prices for the current Rabi season will also take into account the increase in prices of cost in fertilizers.

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री मूल चन्द मीणा द्वारा पूछा गया ।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा : सभापति महोदय, मेरे क्वेश्चन के भाग "ख" का मंत्री जी ने उत्तर नहीं दिया है। मैंने यह पूछा था कि राज्य सहायता वापस लेने से उर्वरकों के मूल्य में वृद्धि से किसानों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि राज्य सहायता वापस लेने के बाद क्या आपने उर्वरकों के रेट निश्चित किये थे, क्योंकि व्यापारियों के द्वारा, जो खाद के विक्रेता थे, किसानों की लूट की गई। किसी जगह उर्वरक, खाद पांच सौ रुपये में किसानों को मिली, किसी जगह तीन सौ, और किसी जगह साढ़े तीन सौ रुपये में मिली। यह फर्क कैसे आया। दूसरी बात मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि आपने लघु और सीमांत कृषकों को पांच सौ करोड़ की सहायता राज्यों के जरिये देने की बात कही है। आपने यह सहायता राज्यों को किस आधार पर दी और इस देश के अन्दर लघु और सीमांत कृषक कुल कितने हैं ?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, we have taken certain steps to protect the interests of the farmers. The Government announced substantially higher minimum support prices for the *kharif* crops on 31st August, 1992. Farmers have been benefited to the tune of Rs. 2,500 crores by this very act of the Government.

Secondly, Sir, the Government provided Rs. 340 crores to the State Governments to ensure the supply of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers at prices reduced by Rs. 1,000 per tonne during the *rabi* season. Rs. 500 crores have also been sanctioned to the State Governments for schemes to help the small and marginal farmers. Some steps have also been taken by the Government to protect the interests of the farmers.

Coming to the question of small and marginal farmers we have allotted an amount of Rs. 340 crores to ameliorate the conditions of small and marginal farmers. The figures regarding the small and marginal farmers are available with the Ministry and I am prepared to pass them on to the hon. Member for his consideration.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा : सर, मेरे मूल प्रश्न के "ख" भाग का उत्तर नहीं आया। मैंने पूछा था कि किसानों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है ? किसानों को व्यापारियों द्वारा क्यों इस प्रकार से लूटा गया है ? आपने इसके रेट्स फिक्स क्यों नहीं किये ?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, the prices of fertilizers have already been fixed by the Government and we, my Ministry and also the Ministry of Fertilizers, are monitoring it and we are instructing the State Governments to see that the farmers do not suffer on account of the hike in the price of fertilizers. Farmers are being given fertilizers at the prices fixed by the Government.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा : सर, मैंने पूछा था (**व्यवधान**)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your second supplementary is over.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा : तो किसानों को जिस तरीके से व्यापारियों द्वारा लूटा गया है, 500 रु., 550 रु. का एक कट्टा दिया गया है, जब कि एक कट्टे का मूल्य 350 रु. हो सकता है। यह कैसे हुआ ? इसकी निगरानी क्यों नहीं की गई ?

दूसरे मैंने पूछा था कि इस देश के अंदर लघु और सीमांत कृषक कुल कितने हैं, राज्यवार, यह बता दें।

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, ultimately the State Government is to monitor whether the fertilizer is being sold in the market at at a reasonable price. If it is not done, it is up to the State Government to see that it is sold at the prescribed price. If such complaints are brought to my notice or to the notice of my Ministry, I will definitely take up the matter with the State Government to see that the farmers are given fertilizer at a reasonable price.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, the Government is following a very short-sighted

policy in regard to the fertilizer subsidy. As a result of the decontrol, the prices of phosphatic fertilizers have increased tremendously causing great hardships to the farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers. The Minister has mentioned that Rs. 500 crores have been announced as a package by the Prime Minister and some States have reduced the fertilizer price by Rs. 1,000. It is quite inadequate. I believe the Union Government has asked the State Governments to evolve certain schemes other than those already announced by the Union Government. I would like to know from the Minister what those schemes are which are evolved by the various State Governments for the benefit of small and marginal farmers. I would like to know whether the Union Government is proposing to increase the package of Rs. 500 crores substantially for the coming year. As regards the procurement price, the 17% increase in the support price for kharif crop is quite inadequate. Will the Government consider a further increase in the support price for the coming crop?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, various State Governments have taken various steps to see that the fertilizer price does not affect the farmers adversely. If the hon. Member wants the information in respect of each and every State—I have the information with me—I am prepared to pass it on to him, if he so desires. Coming to the second question of increasing the amount of Rs. 500 crores, this amount of Rs. 500 crores is meant for small and marginal farmers. We have distributed it to various States.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will you further increase it?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : No, Sir. At the moment, the Government of India does not propose to increase this amount.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : What about the support price?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Now, I will come to the question of support price. As the hon. Member is aware, support price for the kharif crop has been announced by the Government of India for this year. This support price is a record one when compared to all the previous years. We must look at the figures. The procurement price for paddy is Rs. 230 in 1991-92 whereas in 1990-91 it was Rs. 205. In 1992-93 it has been enhanced to Rs. 270. It means that there has been an enhancement of Rs. 40 in 1992-93. It is the same with other crops like jowar, bajra, etc. In 1991-92 it was only Rs. 205. This year it has been increased to Rs. 240. There is a difference of Rs. 35. It means that there is an increase of Rs. 35. As regards wheat, it is yet to be announced. Wheat is a rabi crop and it is going to be announced at an early date. Likewise, for all other crops we have given a remunerative support price which is an all-time record and the Government of India has taken the hike in fertilizer price into account while announcing the kharif crop support price.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, regarding the prices of fertilizers, the Government has known a double bomb on the farmers. One is, decontrol of prices and the other is withdrawal of subsidy. It is not a fact that two bombs have been thrown on the farmers? I myself am a farmer and I am the worst sufferer because of the increase in fertilizer prices. I spent Rs. 5000 last year. Now my budget has gone up to more than Rs. 15,000 because of fertilizer price increase. The price has increased by more than 300 per cent. Before the decontrol, the price of Factamphos was Rs. 3,380. This was the Government price. Now it is being sold at Rs. 6,820. For the NPK Complex, before the decontrol, the Government price was Rs. 3,380 per tonne. Now it is being sold at Rs. 7,000. DAP price was Rs. 4,680 per tonne. Now it is being sold at Rs. 8,800 per tonne. Potash, previously it was Rs. 1,740 only and now it is Rs. 6,100 per tonne. This is the increase in fertilizer prices. In 1978, out of the total cultivated land, 33 per cent was reported to be using fertilizers. Now it has gone up to 79 per cent. Our food production in 1965 was only 72 million tonnes. In 1990-91 it has gone up to 176.2 million tonnes. During the year 2000 we expect

240 million tonnes, to feed our people. How is the Government going to meet this requirement? Only by using fertilizers we could improve our food production. One tonne of fertilizer will give us 7.5 tonnes of food production. How is the Government going to meet our requirement without increasing land and only by using fertilizers we can do it. How is the Government going to meet our requirement in the year 2000? How is the Government going to help the poor farmers?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, I am fully aware of the problems faced by the farmers after the hike in of prices of fertilizers. But hon. Member should bear in mind that fertilizer is not the only component which increases the agricultural production. There are so many factors contributing to the overall increase in agricultural production. Fertilizer is one thing. Second is the extent of irrigated and high-yielding variety of land, adequate, timely and convenient availability of fertilizers and farmers awareness of the benefit of fertilizers, so many factors contribute to the overall growth of agricultural production in our country. Hon. Member has said that the increase in the price of fertilizer is a burden on the agricultural farmers in our country. I do not dispute that fact. But in order to ameliorate the condition of the farmers, as I said earlier, we have announced certain programmes. One of the programmes is, enhancement of the price for Kharif crop. Second is, Rs. 340 crores that was given to the States so that the price of Potash as well as Phosphatic fertilizers are reduced by Rs. 1000 per tonne. The third one is, Rs. 500 crores scheme which has already been announced and which has been distributed to the States One or two instalments are yet to be given which will be given to the States. Coming to the question of freight charges, we have sanctioned Rs. 55 crores and railways is going to get Rs. 33 crores. Moreover, for far-flung areas, hilly areas and places like the North-East region there is the transportation problem. In order to meet that problem we have allocated another Rs. 30 crores for the transportation of fertilizers to the far-flung areas. So many steps are being taken by the Government so that the problems of the farmers in the rural areas are removed. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : But in spite of all these, the fertilizer prices are not going down. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Encroachment on Government Land in Delhi

*161. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI : Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of encroachments made on Government land in Delhi; and

(b) whether Government propose to take appropriate action against the offenders who connive with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi Municipal Committee, officials in such encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) Details of encroachments of lands under the different authorities and civic bodies are reported as follows :

I. *Municipal Corporation of Delhi*

A total of 66,967 cases of encroachments were detected and removed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in the period 1-4-1987 to 31-7-1991. The process of detection and removal is continuous.

II. *New Delhi Municipal Committee*

There are two main types of encroachments consisting of jhuggi jhonpari clusters totalling 48 (mostly in L&DO lands) as well as religious structures which are 50 in number.

III. *Delhi Development Authority*

According to the Delhi Development Authority, 929 jhuggi jhonpari clusters existed largely on public land under their control, besides other encroachments, statistics of which are not readily available as